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Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

October \_\_, 1998.

By

*Sam Butt*

4/a  
ph  
11-10

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 10577-404-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Continuation  
application of:

Thomas Collins, et al.

Serial No.:

Filed: Herewith

For: PUBLIC KEY CRYPTOGRAPHIC  
APPARATUS AND METHOD

)  
)  
) Examiner: Unk.

)  
) Art Unit: Unk.

)  
) PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced continuation application, please amend the application as directed herein.

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓  
Please cancel claims 1-13, and add the following new claims.

14. A method for establishing cryptographic communications comprising the step of:  
encoding a plaintext message word M to a ciphertext word signal C, where M corresponds to a number representative of a message and

$$0 \leq M \leq n-1$$